

Information Sharing Highlighted at 2010 GEOINT Symposium

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Nearly 4,000 geospatial intelligence professionals converged on New Orleans in early November for the annual GEOINT Symposium hosted by the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation. The importance and ongoing challenges of information sharing were recurring themes from the keynote speakers and breakout panels.

Caryn Wagner (Undersecretary of DHS for Intelligence and Analysis) talked of the PM-ISE in her Q&A session. She spoke of the value of the fusion centers for sharing information, but also the challenges of sharing more broadly ? most importantly, managing information about US Persons properly and appropriately cooperating with the intelligence community given the legal constraints of intelligence gathering. She talked about the challenges of multiple security domains, privacy/civil rights/civil liberties and the quantity of data that exists within her department, throughout government and outside government.

DNI Clapper stressed the importance of information sharing as well. He also talked of the ?tweaks?he?s making to better focus on integration and sharing of terrorism information. He said that many of the solutions to the information sharing challenges are in policy, not necessarily technical.

And both Wagner and Clapper talked about their recent visits to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in October and the importance of keeping law enforcement included in federal decisions.

The Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Letitia Long, spoke about making geospatial data and knowledge much more widely accessible and using that as a base for collaboration among not only intelligence agencies, but other humanitarian and homeland security missions.

Other panels covered the importance of geospatial information in the unclassified domain, the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise and information sharing challenges in a coalition-based world.

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